

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 19th February, 1876.

THE *Sádháraní* of the 6th February thus commences an editorial on the growing activity which is perceptible in native society at the present time :—The stream of progress is gradually flowing into the country: different kinds of associations are springing up, and essays and lectures are being written and delivered on various subjects. Superstitious notions, customs, and creeds, are giving place to correct and true ones. And what is not being done by means of books, newspapers, associations, and lectures? A foreigner, on his first arrival in this country, may well imagine that no other country is so progressive. But that person alone who, being on the spot, has watched the current, is able to see that it is merely sound, and is made up only of letters, paper, ink, and writing. This remark will be fully illustrated by a reference to the subject of the labors of Pandit Ishwara Chandra Vidyáságara in connection with widow-marriage and polygamy—labours which have met with little encouragement from the educated portions of Hindu society,—and the bashful timidity betrayed by the members of the Bráhmó Samáj when an attempt was lately made to obtain a list of the persons who follow Bráhmóism.

SADHARANI,
February 6th, 1876.

2. A correspondent of the *Sáptáhhik Samáchár* of the 1st February writes the following about Lord Northbrook :—No one in this world is entirely free from faults or wholly devoid of merit, and Lord Northbrook is no exception. Among his faults may be noted his extreme love of authority, and a certain amount of partiality. A well-wisher of India, as he was, he yet had not the courage to be unfriendly towards Manchester, and though conscious of the fact that the natives of India should be supported as, so to speak, his children, he forgot to look with impartial eyes upon the black and the white; although he was aware that gentleness secures esteem and commendation, it was his habit and desire to exercise authority. Considering, however, both his faults and his virtues, he has done a fair amount of good to the natives. His retirement will afford breathing time to the timid Princes of India, both allied and feudatory. Every native of India will be equally sorry and surprised to learn of his departure within so short a time. We had thought that even if he did not remain for more than the prescribed term of five years, he would stay at least for that period and relieve a few Guicowars of the burden of sovereignty. The young Nizam of Hyderabad has recently incurred his displeasure, owing to the former's inability, from illness, to be present at Bombay on the occasion of the Prince of Wales' visit. Though nothing unfavourable has been remarked with reference to the Nepal and Burmese embassies, the Nizam has fallen under disfavour even after sending his Prime Minister to Bombay.

SAPTÁHHIK SAMÁCHÁR
February 1st, 1876.

As to Lord Northbrook's virtues, it should be said that he is intelligent, gentle, and liberal in his views. Immediately on his advent to this country, he conferred a great benefit on the natives of India by performing a very noble act—the abolition of the income tax. Perhaps the Secretary of State does not desire this. He seems either to believe that India continues to be as wealthy as before, or it seems to be his desire that everything which India possesses should be carried to England.

A second and still more praiseworthy act of Lord Northbrook was his successful effort to suppress the famine of 1874, thereby saving thousands of the inhabitants of Behar from starvation.

He is now, however, about to retire, and it seems that after his departure the income-tax will be reimposed on the people of India. But though Lord Northbrook has really conferred great benefits on the natives by abolishing the income-tax and suppressing the famine, still he has not attended to the removal of the causes which are making the natives gradually lose all respect for the British Government. He has not in the least sought to check the oppression of the police, of the Judges and Magistrates in the mofussil, and of the lower orders of Europeans and East Indians. Nay, on the other hand, by appointing the Steven's commission, by his favourable assurances to the European railway officers, and by other similar acts, Lord Northbrook has given clear indications of his extreme partiality to the selfish European community.

SAPTANIK SAMACHAR,
February 8th, 1876.

3. The same paper of the 8th February makes the following observations on the Calcutta Municipal Bill, especially on sections 21, 22, and 58:—Let us consider whether, if these sections are passed into law and enforced, the citizens and their elected Commissioners will be able to enjoy the privileges contemplated by them. Now, suppose that in the opinion of the Chairman there is a want of sufficient funds for the purposes of police, conservancy, drainage, or water-supply, the matter is at once reported to Belvedere, and its absolutely powerful lord, without a moment's delay, publishes a notification of enhanced rates in the *Calcutta Gazette*; with a single scratch of his pen commences the bleeding operation of millions of people; and the curtain falls on the comedy of a nominal self-government. But of what good has this been to the citizens? If Government reserves in its own hands the power of taxation, and the police and the public works, what was the use of making such a meaningless flourish of trumpets? The petition of the Chairman is sent, the merciful personage at Belvedere accedes to his prayer, the actors on the stage play a pantomime; but tears fall from the eyes of the rate-payers—and who shall wipe those tears? If the Lieutenant-Governor has really desired to draw the municipal wires even with greater vigor than his arbitrary predecessors in office, let him say so plainly. We, indeed, know that our rulers always want to act by means of machines, but what is the use, we ask, of moving about a few puppets on pretence of legislation? Since he is able to move about these lifeless things by means of wind or steam, and to stop their movements at his pleasure, what was the use of legislation to cover the matter? We do not want such assurances. The people may accept this arrangement during the administration of Sir Richard Temple, for His Honor is known to defer to public censure, but then he will not remain in this country for ever; and who knows what sort of a Governor will next come to control our fate? And if future Lieutenant-Governors come arrayed in new garments (*lit.* snake-skins), His Honor will doubtless understand what will befall us.

We do not see why His Honor, knowing all this, is yet so anxious to pass such a mischievous Bill. In his speech on the Bill in the Legislative Council the Hon'ble Bábu Krishna Dás Pál truly remarked that this was the last straw which broke the camel's back. Under this arrangement competent men, even if elected, will not probably consent to be Commissioners, for their power and doings may be at any moment upset by the Government.

4. The same paper is highly gratified to learn that Sir Richard Temple has directed his attention to the subject of the growth of intemperance at the present time. It will be a happy day when this vice disappears from Government offices and educational institutions. A watchful supervision, a rigorous discipline, and chiefly an ability on the part of Government to resist the temptation of an excise revenue, are all that is required to attain the noble object aimed at by His Honor.

SATYAHK SAMACHAR.
February 8th, 1876.

5. Adverting to the appointment to the Viceroyalty of Lord Lytton, who has not yet been known to possess any remarkable administrative talent, the *Bhārat Mihir* of the 9th February remarks:—Now that, since the opening of the Suez Canal, the journey from England to India has been considerably facilitated, it seems strange that men of remarkable talents are so unwilling to come to this country. Different reasons have been assigned for this fact. In our opinion, the true reason seems to be this. Since the time of the Duke of Argyle and his Under-Secretary, Mr. Grant Duff, who more largely interfered in the affairs of India than their predecessors, the dignity of the Viceregal office has been gradually on the decline, until it has greatly diminished under the administration of our present Secretary of State, the Marquis of Salisbury. The latter has unduly interfered in almost every act of the present Viceroy, and by observing his conduct, one is led to the conclusion that the Governor-General is but an assistant to the Secretary of State, and that the Government of India is merely a machine subject to the will of the Home Government. We fear that the appointment of Lord Lytton has been made in the hope that he will prove such an instrument. For the exercise of learning, intelligence, activity, and good-will there is no other field so extensive as that afforded by India. There is plenty of work here if one means to benefit the country and its people, and consequently the position of the Viceroy is a highly important one. The great and ever-to-be-remembered Cornwallis, Bentinck, and Canning did much for us; while Elgin and Lawrence came and went as routine men. Lord Northbrook, coming after Lord Mayo, who had made a revolution in Government, has indeed comforted India in some degree, but even he has not accomplished any signally great act for our good. The reason why he has not done it will be presently referred to. In fact, the relation in which India is placed with reference to England makes any endeavour to benefit the former affect the latter's interests, and causes the extreme displeasure of the Indian Civil Service, the highest Government officials, the Members of Council, the British mercantile body, and the majority of the British public. This displeasure is sufficiently strong even to shake the Viceregal throne. The present hostility of Manchester to India has no other meaning. The English journals have now begun to take an increasing interest in this country, and to lead the British public to pay greater attention to it than before. Under these circumstances, it is highly desirable that the office of Viceroy should only be conferred on a person who not only possesses rare talents, intelligence, independent views, a vigorous understanding, and sympathy with the natives,

BHARAT MIHIR,
February 9th, 1876.

but also considerable influence in Parliament and with the Ministry. Mr. John Bright would be such a person.

BHARAT MINIR,
February 9th, 1876.

6. The same paper urges on Government the necessity of introducing a thorough reform into the Police Department. The editor acknowledges the greater efficiency of the new police as compared with the old, but the department is charged with constantly practising oppression, getting up false cases, and receiving bribes. This sad state of things is due to the fact that the majority of the subordinate police officers are ignorant and illiterate men, and of extremely immoral character. The reformation of the police has become a great necessity. The Lieutenant-Governor confesses his inability to make the needful reform for want of sufficient funds. But the latter can be easily obtained by abolishing the highly paid offices of Inspector-General, Deputy Inspector-General, District Superintendent, and Assistant Superintendent, whose number is so large. This measure will not in the least affect the public interests, while with the savings thus effected Government, by appointing some native Deputy Magistrates to the last-mentioned offices, and members of the Native Civil Service to the department, may improve the moral tone and efficiency of the subordinate police officer.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
February 9th, 1876.

7. The *Hindu Ranjiká* of the 9th February remarks that it is a want of capital, and not of a spirit of enterprise and speculation, that prevents natives from engaging in commercial pursuits. The facilities that exist in England for this purpose, such as an abundance of capital and consequently a low rate of interest, joint-stock companies, and the like, are not to be found in this country. Here the amount of available capital is small, the rate of interest high, and the people not inclined to form joint-stock companies owing to the larger profits they can obtain by lending money than in any uncertain speculations.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKÁ,
February 10th, 1876.

8. The *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 10th February is gratified to find that in the *World* newspaper a suggestion has been made, to the effect that native troops, whose loyalty and courage have been proved on many occasions, may be conveniently brought to England to increase its army. The suggestion, if adopted, will be productive of immense good to both India and England, for while the great increase of wealth in the latter country has made it difficult to obtain recruits for the army, in India the case is quite the opposite. Here wealth is wanting, but the number of men fit to enter the military service from their loyalty and devotion to the British Government is large.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKÁ.

9. The same paper asks Government to hold periodically agricultural and industrial *melás* in every district. Government will obtain an increased revenue in this way, as well as confer a great boon on the country.

BURDWAN
PRACHARIKÁ,
February 11th, 1876.

10. The *Burdwan Prachariká* of the 11th February observes that there have been only two events of importance during the administration of Lord Northbrook,—the famine, and the deposition of Mulharao. His successful exertions to suppress the first made him exceedingly popular, and his popularity would have been greatly enhanced had it not been for the Baroda blunder.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
February 11th, 1876.

11. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette* of the 11th February, writing from Dinagepore, directs the attention of Government to the hardships to which the people in that district are likely to be subjected by carrying out the proposed levy of the road-cess at the maximum rates. They have not yet fully recovered from the effects of the late famine, and have become involved in debt. Some have yet to pay the arrears of rent due to the zemindars; others loans contracted during the scarcity, besides

the loan of grain granted them by Government. There are few wealthy, or even well-to-do, men in this district, and the cess will press heavily on the poor, who form the majority of the population. His Honor is besought to consider the matter.

12. The *Grámvártá Prákáshiká* of the 12th February is glad to read the favorable opinion expressed by the Lieutenant-Governor on the native newspapers in the last administration report of Bengal. The editor, however, cannot agree with the remark that native newspapers are seldom read by the educated portion of the native community. The total number of subscribers to these papers is roughly estimated to be about 25,000. To obtain accuracy in this matter, it is suggested that henceforth editors should be required, while registering their papers in the Post-Office, to submit a statement containing, among other things, the number of their subscribers.

GRAMVARTÁ
PRÁKASHIKÁ,
February 12th, 1876.

13. The same paper remarks on the proposal to introduce State Life Insurance for natives into this country that though the project, if carried out, is likely to be beneficial, still there are some serious obstacles in the way of its accomplishment. By means of life insurance, a person can make savings for his wife and children; but from the fact of the joint-family system obtaining in native society a man is bound not only to support these, but also sisters and their families, and even distant relatives, so that by diverting funds from their support the introduction of the system of insurance on behalf of wives and children will render a large number of natives helpless and destitute of the means of support which they would otherwise have. Asylums should first be constructed for the helpless before the project is carried out. Moreover, the general poverty of the people, the majority of whom have no fixed and regular income, will hardly enable them to comply with the conditions which must necessarily be exacted by the system of life insurance.

GRAMVARTÁ
PRÁKASHIKÁ.

14. The *Hindu Hitoishini* of the 12th February devotes a lengthy editorial to the question whether England derives any benefit from her possession of India, and answers the question in the affirmative. Whatever nation has come in contact with India has profited by its wisdom and old civilization: witness the Greeks under Alexander the Great, the Mahomedans, and lastly, the English. The wealth and influence of England are chiefly due to her possession of India. What numbers have not been enriched by the wealth of India. Large numbers of Englishmen earn their easy livelihood in this country; and is not this an advantage? England, however, does not deny that India is a valuable possession to her.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
February 12th, 1876.

15. The *Dacca Prákásh* of the 13th February is highly delighted to notice that the Lieutenant-Governor is anxious to check the growth of intemperance among students and Government officers. He will obtain the blessings of the whole country if he can but succeed in his noble exertions in this matter.

DACCA PRÁKASH,
February 13th, 1876.

16. The same paper points out the justice of the observations made by the Lieutenant-Governor on the Police Department in the minute prefixed to the last administration report of Bengal. The editor points out one evil in connection with this subject which His Honor would have found out on enquiry. This is the prolonged stay of some police officers in a particular place, which generates an undue familiarity with the inhabitants, and the formation of prejudices and prepossessions for or against individuals. Police officers should be subject to occasional transfers.

DACCA PRÁKASH.

SOMA PRAKASH,
February 14th, 1876.

17. The *Soma Prakásh* of the 14th February learns with regret that the Lieutenant-Governor has ordered the amalgamation of the Calcutta normal school with that at Hooghly. The normal school was an extremely needful institution in the metropolis. It was only here that the highest education was obtained in the Bengali language, and a knowledge of science through the medium of the vernacular. The expenses of living are no doubt less at Hooghly than in Calcutta; but the former will not be a convenient place to many of the pupils, the greater portion of whose guardians live in the metropolis on account of their business. Moreover, there are advantages in the city which are not to be had in the mofussil. Many pupils, for instance, obtain their board gratis at the houses of certain well-to-do men in Calcutta; others there are who similarly enjoy a small monthly allowance. They will not have anything of this sort in Hooghly. The progress of the Calcutta *páthshálá*, again, was chiefly due to its being subject to the same supervision with the normal school, and this will be seriously interfered with if the one is now dissociated from the other. His Honor is asked not to order the removal of the normal school to any other place.

SOMA PRAKASH.

18. The same paper, in commenting on the Calcutta Municipal Bill, observes that Government has but partially acceded to what the rate-payers wanted in connection with the municipal government of the city. The offices of Police Commissioner and Chairman of the Justices have not been separated, while Government has kept all power in its own hands. It is difficult to assign the reason for such conduct on the part of Government. Perhaps Sir Richard Temple does not consider the citizens as yet fit for self-government. Yet he is not justified in saying this, for the citizens have not been actually tried and found incapable to manage their own affairs. Are they really inferior in learning, ability, and intelligence to the people of Bombay? Perhaps Government does not desire to give up all power at once.

SOMA PRAKASH.

19. The same paper gives it as his opinion, in a leading article, that much of the occasional unpopularity of the British administration of India is due to the predominance in it of the civilian element. Nominally, indeed, we are ruled by the Queen and Parliament, and their representatives and subordinates. But the work of Government is really conducted by the civilians, who acquire in their different official capacities a knowledge of the country and the people, and are therefore selected by new and inexperienced Viceroys and local Governors to be their advisers and guides. And it is because Government has never moved out of its civilian groove that its measures sometimes become extremely unpopular, and the distinction of "officials" and "non-officials" has originated.

SAHACHAR,
February 14th, 1876.

20. The *Sahachar* of the 14th February regrets to observe that there have been made in some quarters needless and unpleasant remarks as to the presents that have been given to the Prince of Wales by the native Princes, and the returns His Royal Highness has made them. The Prince has but acted judiciously in not making costly presents. As to those given by the native Princes, it should be remarked that it is their poor subjects alone who will be ultimately required to bear these extravagant expenses.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
February 15th, 1876.

21. A correspondent of the *Sulabha Samáchar* of the 15th February brings to the notice of Government the occurrence of no less than four *dacoities* in the district of Burdwan within the space of one month. The police is utterly inefficient.

22. Adverting to the cruel treatment of the prisoners in the jails in Bengal, especially at the oil-machines and the tread-mills, the *Samáchar Chandriká* of the 10th February asks Sir Richard Temple to attend to the matter and abolish the use of these instruments from the prisons.

SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
February 10th, 1876.

23. The same paper of the 14th February remarks that the removal of the Calcutta normal school to Hooghly will cause considerable inconvenience to the large number of poor pupils attending the institution. It would be better if the school at Hooghly were amalgamated with that at Calcutta.

SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
February 14th, 1876.

24. The *Sambád Prabhákar* of the 8th February directs the attention of the Government of India to the horrible oppressions practised by the managers on the Bengali laborers in the tea-plantations in Assam. The writer describes the sufferings of the laborers on the Pávai plantation, near Vishwanáth, in Middle Assam, from their cruel treatment by Lamborám Jemadar, the manager of the concern. The estate is owned by the Vishwanáth Tea Company, Limited. The number of deaths among the coolies is fearfully large.

SAMBAD PRABHAKAR,
February 8th, 1876.

25. The editor of the *Urdu Guide* translates an extract from the *Bombay Times*, anent the Mahomedan Literary Society, and makes the following comments thereon. He commences by saying that from this extract it appears that there exists in Bengal a fabulous bird like unto the phoenix (*a'nká*), which brings forth its young without laying eggs. This bird, after sitting in its nest for a specified time, at length brought forth a chick without feathers or wings in the year 1279 Hijree (about 1862 A. D.), and ever since its birth it was resolved, in order to keep up the name of this phoenix, to celebrate its anniversary regularly by holding a meeting at the Town Hall in the month of December. Last year, however, a cold boisterous wind blew against this bird, inasmuch as the highest personage in this land, who used to attend its anniversary meetings, and by virtue of whose presence at, and participation therein great things were done, kept aloof and refused to attend.

URDU GUIDE,
February 12th, 1876.

We, says the editor, for our part had long ere this consigned this supposititious bird, under the name of the Mahomedan Literary Society, to oblivion consequent on its death, but our Western contemporary has recently, by means of its article, revived, as it were, this defunct society, whilst the tenor of the article alluded to was such that the acts of a single individual, or it may be of a few persons only, involved the whole of the Mahomedans of these parts in wickedness and folly; so that were we, as representatives of the Moslems, to remain silent under such circumstances, we would be tacitly admitting all this shame and disgrace.

We admit the correctness of the *Times* in asking, "How is it that the members of a society professing to be a *literary* institution, come to put themselves forward, whether individually or collectively, as *politically* representing any section of the Mahomedan community?" For by the second section of the rules of that society, it has no authority to meddle in such matters. Moreover, the object of the society, as enjoined by its rules, is to promulgate for general information, by means of printed pamphlets, the discussions that take place at its meetings on the ancient and modern social and religious topics of Asia and Europe; but excepting the first and second years of its existence, when a few pamphlets were thus published, no others have appeared during the remaining ten years, nor during this period have any monthly meetings been held, as required by sections 35 and 36.

With reference to the address about which the *Times* writes, it is to be said that it was wholly a deception, inasmuch as at the time of its presentation none of the more respectable and high Mahomedans of Calcutta from whom it professed to come were aware of the circumstance, nor was even the Prince of Wales, but it was given to Doctor Fayrer with the signatures of but a few Mahomedans attached thereto.

Further on the above paper urges on Lord Northbrook to call for a report from the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal on this so-called Literary Society. This has our entire concurrence, and is especially necessary, because since His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor is the patron, that is, the guardian of this society, it behoves him to be always looking after it: for what things are not carried out by the blessedness of his name? Save and except those Mahomedan gentlemen who have an *entrée* to the durbars, most of them have been misled by this deception, and in short have been allured into it; for this society is, like other societies, under Government, so that to be a member of it brings down the favor of Government, whilst any one keeping aloof and not joining it will incur displeasure.

Now, should Government institute an enquiry as it ought, it would be found out whether this society contains above 500 members, as often represented; also whether each member has, according to sections 11, 12, and 14, paid up his annual subscription of Rs. 6 in the first month of the year to the secretary; or on failure thereof, if the names of defaulting members have been handed up to the committee and struck off.

Again, if there be more than 500 members, the annual subscriptions realized ought to amount to above Rs. 3,000, and in twelve years to more than Rs. 36,000; which with Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000 as donations, should bring up the income of the society to near Rs. 40,000, an account of which should be given by the secretary in order to show how the money has been expended.

MURGH-I-SULIMAN,
February 7th 1876.

26. The *Murgh-i-Sulimán* impresses on Government the necessity of employing in Bihár educated men of that province instead of Bengalis, more so in the Education Department, where the Bengali explanations given by masters are as unintelligible and difficult as English, especially to the younger pupils.

MURGH-I-SULIMAN.
February 14th, 1876.

27. The same paper urges on Government to issue stringent orders that all its currency notes, to whatever circle they may belong, be received in payment of revenue every where without distinction. The want of such an order makes it difficult for a holder or presenter of notes to cash any in the bazar above Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 except under a heavy discount, which lowers the name and honor of the Government.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 19th February 1876.

R. J. ELLIS,

Offg. Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the
19th February 1876.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Rungpur Dik Prakásh" ...	Kákinia, Rungpur ...	Weekly ...	3rd February 1876.
2	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	6th ditto.
3	"Sáptáhiik Samáchar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	1st and 8th February 1876.
4	"Bhárat Mihir" ...	Mymensing ...	Ditto ...	9th February 1876.
5	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Boáliyá, Rájsháhí ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
6	"Amrita Bázár Patriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
7	"Bardhamán Pracháriká" ...	Burdwan ...	Ditto ...	3rd and 11th February 1876.
8	"Education Gazette" ...	Hughli ...	Ditto ...	11th February 1876.
9	"Grámvártá Prakáshiká" ...	Kumárháli ...	Ditto ...	12th ditto.
10	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	12th ditto.
11	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	13th ditto.
12	"Soma Prakásh" ...	Chingripotá, 24-Perghs. ...	Ditto ...	14th ditto.
13	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	14th ditto.
14	"Sulabha Samáchar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	15th ditto.
15	"Samáchar Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	Bi-Weekly ...	3rd and 10th February 1876.
16	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	5th to 11th ditto.
17	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	10th to 17th ditto.
18	"Urdu Guide" (<i>in Urdu</i>) ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	12th February 1876.
19	"Behár Bandhu" (<i>in Hindi</i>) ...	Patna ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.
20	"Murgh-i-Sulimán" (<i>in Urdu</i>) ...	Monghyr ...	Ditto ...	28th Jan. & 7th & 14th Feb. 1876.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

